

Why many leaders fail

- JETS devotion : 10th Nov. 2008

World financial crisis even hits us here in Africa. Why? We are not living on an island; incredible interconnectedness and thus dependency, whether we like it or not.

For us as Christians leadership should be much simpler than for others, because we have a superb leader whom we can follow in leading others.

Leading by example – lessons from the Books of the Kings of Israel (Samuel, Kings, Chronicles)

1. Inquire from God – shall I attack
2. Obey G in every detail – Elijah + Elisha
3. Listen to wise women – Nabal story
4. Put Yahweh first – idolatry, power and pride
5. Strengthen yourself in God in times of trouble – 1Sam30
6. Don't tolerate bad advice – 1Sam 30
7. Be very generous – you can't outgive a King
8. Trust for the impossible – Hezekiah + Sennaherib
9. Praise and thank God publicly – Berachiah, Jehoshaphat
10. Repair the temple – Asa + Josiah
11. Good/godly leaders will always be remembered – David, the standard

Bad examples from Kings

1. Just do their own thing – Saul
2. Listen to the wrong advisors – Absalom, Rehobeam
3. Look for alternative power sources – Jehoshaphat
4. Just fight for the fun of it – Joab, the spring wars
5. Pride always comes before the fall – Josiah at Necho
6. Don't know any gratitude – Joash kills the son of his guardian
7. Failing to make use of the good moments – Ahab
8. Their epitaph: "...passed away to no one's regret" – Jehoram
9. Sometimes receive God's wrath on their body – Uzziah "he had leprosy"

Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make, by Hans Finzel

1. The top-down attitude
2. Putting paper-work before people-work
3. The absence of affirmation
4. No room for Mavericks?
5. Dictatorship in decision-making
6. Dirty delegation
7. Communication chaos
8. Missing the clues of corporate culture
9. Success without successor
10. Failure to focus on the future

1 Sam through to 2 Chronicles – Transitions

1 Sam – introduction to the David story – runs parallel with Saul's story (17-31)

2Sam – all about David as King

1 Kings – transition from David to Solomon and up to Solomon's death; including Elijah

2Kings – transition from Elijah (death in ch. 13) to Elisha (2-9); divided Kingdom up to the fall of the Northern Kingdom (25)

1 Chron – genealogies (Jabez 4:9-10); picks up Saul's story from ch. 10 till death of David 29:30

2Chron – shows inside / priestly viewpoint from Solomon to Babylonian exile (36:23)

David Bible Study themes

1. Chosen by God – 1Sam 16
 2. More than boldness – 1 Sam 17
 3. Friends forever – 1Sam 20 / 2Sam 9
 4. Walking close with God (dancing with God)
 5. Dealing with authority
 6. A man of prayer and praise
 7. Temptation is real – 2Sam 11+12
 8. Men and their families – 2Sam 13ff
 9. Entrusting your life to God when facing death
 10. Writing history – a lasting memory
 11. Team dynamics of a great leader – 1Sam 30
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Personal study: Go through the books and write down examples to follow and warnings what to avoid.

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